

Serial No. 10/071,516
Attorney Docket No. 87154239.000002

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

This Amendment and Response to Office Action is filed in response to the Office Action of February 12, 2004. Presently, claims 15-16 and 18-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,941,253 issued to Kaizuka ("Kaizuka"). Claim 17 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Kaizuka for obviousness issues. The rejections set forth in the outstanding Office Action are overcome and/or traversed for the reasons stated below.

I. Rejection of Claims 15-16 and 18-20 as Being Anticipated by Kaizuka

Claims 15-16 and 18-20 currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaizuka. The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Kaizuka fails to disclose each and every limitation of claim 15-16 and 18-20. Claim 15 recites a hair curling roller having has a hollow cylindrical shell: "The hair curling roller 650 has a hollow cylindrical configuration", paragraph [0036], Fig. 6B of the application. In contrast, Kaizuka discloses the structure of an electric iron for hairdressing which is not a hair curling roller as defined in the claim.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the Applicants submit that claim 15 and dependent claims 16 and 18-20 are not anticipated by Kaizuka. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

II. Rejection of Claim 17 as Being Unpatentable over Kaizuka

Claim 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaizuka. This rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the reason that Kaizuka neither discloses nor

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suggests a hair curling roller having the claimed structure, as described above. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION


For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 15-20 of the present application patentably define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, Examiner is invited to call the undersigned. Because this filing is submitted within the three-month deadline, no Petition for Extension of Time is required. Furthermore, because this filing adds no new claims, no additional claim fees are required. In the event, however, that additional fees are required to complete this filing, Commissioner is authorized to deduct any deficiencies from Deposit Account 02-0393, Attorney Docket No. 87154239.560002.

If Examiner has any questions regarding this filing or the application in general, Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 12, 2004

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